



*Dr. Oakley C. Johnson*

TUTORING  
IN  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
AND  
LITERATURE

## *Dr. Oakley C. Johnson*

is a "retired" teacher of English Language and Literature who is still teaching. Since 1952 he has been tutoring students at all levels in the field he has specialized in for more than thirty-five years. He is now specializing still more narrowly, confining himself to giving private lessons to those with a foreign background who wish to study the English language.

He teaches beginners, using an eclectic direct method; and also those who have had one or two or three years of English study and wish to go further. He is glad to work also with foreigners who have a good foundation in English but wish to improve their style of speech or writing, or who wish to broaden their acquaintance with English literature.

Dr. Johnson is a graduate of the Michigan State Normal School, Ypsilanti, Michigan (1917), and of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1920), where he obtained a doctorate in English Language and Aesthetics in 1928. His doctoral dissertation was on *Literary Allusion in Contemporary American Literature*. He has had miscellaneous courses in various other institutions, including the New School for Social Research, New York (1928-30).

His record includes eight years as Instructor in English at the University of Michigan (1920-28), two years as Assistant Professor of English at Long Island University (1928-30), two years in the evening session of the College of the City of New York (1930-32). He was Docent in the Department of English of the Institute of Modern Languages, Moscow, USSR (1935-36). For six years, after his return from the USSR, he was an Assistant or Associate Professor of English in Negro colleges of the deep South, teaching successively at Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama; Dillard University, New Orleans,

Louisiana; and Tillotson College, Austin, Texas (1946-47; 1947-51; 1951-52). On his return to New York in the fall of 1952, he was engaged by Brooklyn College to replace a professor who had resigned, and taught there TWO DAYS before President Harry David Gideonse summarily fired him—one of the minor incidents in our McCarthyite dark age. Dr. Johnson has also taught in the New York Workers School (1934-35 and 1938-42), and in the Jefferson School of Social Science, New York (1954-55).

In the course of nearly four decades Dr. Johnson has done considerable publishing. He was a co-author of *The Way of Composition*, a textbook, Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York, 1925, and author of *The Arguer's Handbook*, also a textbook, Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, 1927. He has had articles or reviews in *The Journal of Adult Education*, *The English Journal*, *American Speech*, *The Nation*, *The Freeman*, *The New Republic*, *Scribner's*, *The New York Sun*, *Moscow Daily News*, *Soviet Russia Today*, and other periodicals. He edited *The Monthly Review* (Plainfield, N. J.), a now defunct magazine, during its short life in 1934. He was on the staff of the *Daily Worker* about four years (1940-44). Notable among his professional studies was "Preventive Remedial English in the Negro Secondary School," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Fall, 1949. The latter study was prepared under a Carnegie Grant-in-Aid in 1947-48. Under a second Carnegie Grant-in-Aid in 1950-51 he did a study of "Unequal Justice in Louisiana," which appeared in *We Charge Genocide*, 1951, an appeal to the United Nations published by the Civil Rights Congress of New York. He was a contributor to the *Fred Newton Scott Anniversary Papers*, University of Michigan, 1928, in which he published "Allusion and Style," one of the chapters of his dissertation. More recently, he was a contributor to *Looking Forward*, 1954, a volume cele-

brating the 30th anniversary of International Publishers, to which he contributed a selection from his forthcoming biography of Charles E. Ruthenberg, founder of the Communist Party of the United States, entitled *The Day Is Coming*.

Despite an active professional life, Dr. Johnson has managed to participate in progressive political movements in the United States. He joined the Socialist Party of America in 1912 and voted for Eugene V. Debs. He was a delegate from Michigan to the Socialist Left Wing Conference, New York, in June, 1919, and also to the Communist Party Organizing Convention, Chicago, in September, 1919.

Since September, 1952, Dr. Johnson has been tutoring privately in New York City, and since May, 1953, he has had students, from time to time, at four of the Missions to the United Nations, some of whom are still under his tutorship. He would be glad to have a few more students, as time and circumstances permit.

DR. OAKLEY C. JOHNSON